

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

HONORING DR. DON JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well today for a very pleasant task, to honor a friend of mine, but I cannot even come and do that without correcting the comments of the previous speaker.

I, too, am on the Committee on Commerce. We held so many Medicaid hearings, I am not sure of the number, but I think it was 8 to 10, somewhere in that area. The gentleman talked of cuts in Medicaid. Let me tell the Members something. The State of Georgia is going to get a 7.2-percent increase next year in Medicaid spending, and in 1997 a 9-percent increase in Medicaid spending, so I apologize that I have to bring that up, but I would like for the American people to hear the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to talk about a great American. Next week, Dr. Don Johnson will end his reign as president of the International College of Dentistry. It is the crowning achievement of one man's tremendous career, a man I am very proud to call my friend.

Don is a Georgian through and through. He was born and raised in Atlanta. He graduated from the Emory University School of Dentistry in 1961 and has been a practicing dentist ever since. He continued to contribute to his alma mater as a member of Emory's Board of Visitors.

There are two things that have always amazed me about Don. He has been a visionary in the dental field, and he has a boundless energy to contribute to his profession.

I recently had the opportunity to go back and read an interview with Don that appeared in the Georgia Dental Association's Newsletter. I was astounded at how insightful his comments were. Don was able to see in 1986 where the dental profession needed to be in 1996. He foresaw the problems in dentistry today that were only smoldering 10 years ago.

Don is a man with tremendous energy. He has run a successful dental practice for many years, yet he has still found the time to volunteer in service to his profession. He is a former president of the Georgia Dental Association, a former president of the Northern District Dental Society, and a former president of the Hinman Dental Society. He is a fellow of the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, and a member of the eminent Pierre Fauchard Academy. In 1988, he was

named the "Man of the Year in Dentistry" by the Northern District Dental Society. He has published numerous scholarly articles and presented many technical papers at dental conferences. He has done all this while running his practice and raising two daughters, serving in his church, and on top of all that he is an accomplished airplane pilot.

Mr. Speaker, It is my pleasure today to bring before you the accomplishments of Dr. Don Johnson of Atlanta, GA, president of the International College of Dentists, and a great American.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT DOESN'T WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago Ann McFeddars, of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain, wrote this: "Americans are right to be disgusted with government right now. Events of recent days are alarming. They should be a warning to all politicians, police officials, and anyone hired by government." That woman has walked the straight and narrow, do not take short cuts, do not rationalize. She said, "It is time to rethink the role of government." She was writing primarily about the horrible events at Waco and Ruby Ridge. But let me read her words again. "Americans are right to be disgusted with government right now. Events of recent days are alarming." She said, "It is time to rethink the role of government."

William Raspberry, the very fine syndicated columnist for the Washington Post, wrote several months ago about some travels he had made around the country. He said, what were the people saying to him as he went around the Nation. He said this:

It sounds very much like it doesn't work. Government doesn't work. It costs more and becomes more intrusive with each passing year, but hardly anywhere can it be said that it is performing better. The trash cans get bigger, the refuse separation rules more onerous, but the streets and alleys aren't any cleaner. Criminal justice costs keep going up, but the neighborhoods aren't safer. Schools become increasingly expensive, and increasingly ineffective. Government doesn't work.

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Those are the words of William Raspberry. These are not the words of any conservative Republicans.

I grew up in a political family, and I have been following governing and politics closely since my early teenage

years. I do not believe; in fact, I am certain that I have never seen a time where there has been so much dissatisfaction, disgust, disappointment, disenchantment, frustration, resentment, even anger, toward government, in general, and toward the Federal Government, in particular, as there is today.

As a conservative Republican, I have two reactions to this. First, I am sorry that things have gotten to the point that they have that so many people feel this way. But secondly, I also must tell you that in a way, I believe this is a good sign for our future. If government can solve all of our problems, the Soviet Union would have been heaven on Earth. Instead, every place where the people have allowed the government or their governments to get too big, they have ended up suffering and living under horrible conditions.

So perhaps it is a good sign that so many people in such a clear, strong majority no longer believe in big government or no longer believe that government can solve all of our problems.

Why are people so angry toward government today? Well, I believe it is because the Federal Government has become one that is of, by and for the bureaucrats instead of one that is of, by and for the people. Too often today our public service has become public high living, high salaries, high pensions, plush offices, short hours. Most importantly, and perhaps worst of all, unaccountability for huge and very costly mistakes. Our servants have become our rulers. The people are really fed up today. They are disgusted with the waste, the lavish spending, the arrogance.

Paul Greg Roberts, another nationally syndicated columnist, wrote this recently. He said:

Six months after the inauguration of the new Republican Congress, it has become apparent that the most important issues facing the country are not economic. Without a doubt, high taxes, profligate government spending and welfare dependency are problems sorely in need of the attention focused on them. But the real question is whether Congress can reclaim the law from unelected bureaucrats and judges.

He also said this:

In the 20th century, there has been a coup against self-rule by bureaucrats and judges. Federal bureaucrats have usurped statutory law with regulations that lack legislative basis.

I think these words of Paul Greg Roberts are right. He went on in this column to say:

In the coming months we will discover whether the Republican Congress can do something that the Democratic Congress failed to do for 40 years: Hold government accountable to the people. This, not the size of the Federal budget, is the ultimate test of whether it matters which party controls Congress.

He said:

The problem in America is not that the budget is out of control, but that the government is.